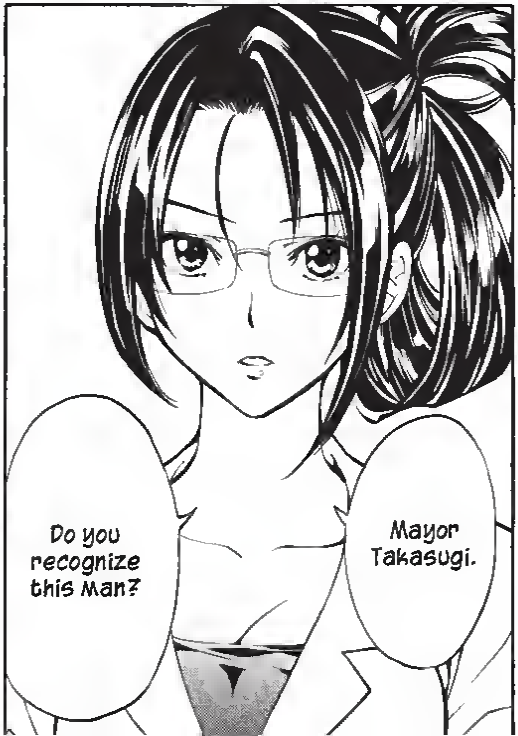
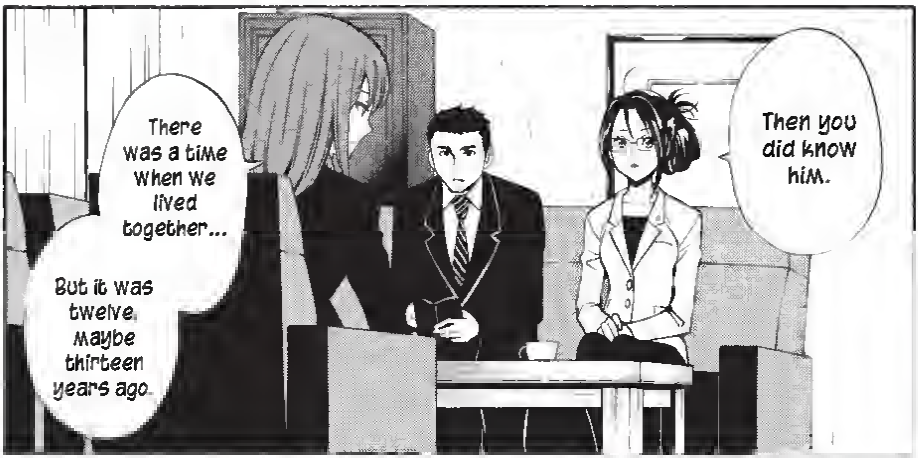
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 3




There was a time when we lived together...
But it was twelve, maybe thirteen years ago.
Then you did know him.

I would be lying to say I wasn't.
...He black-mailed you, didn't he?

So he's dead.
I see...
SIGH...

You're relieved?
...

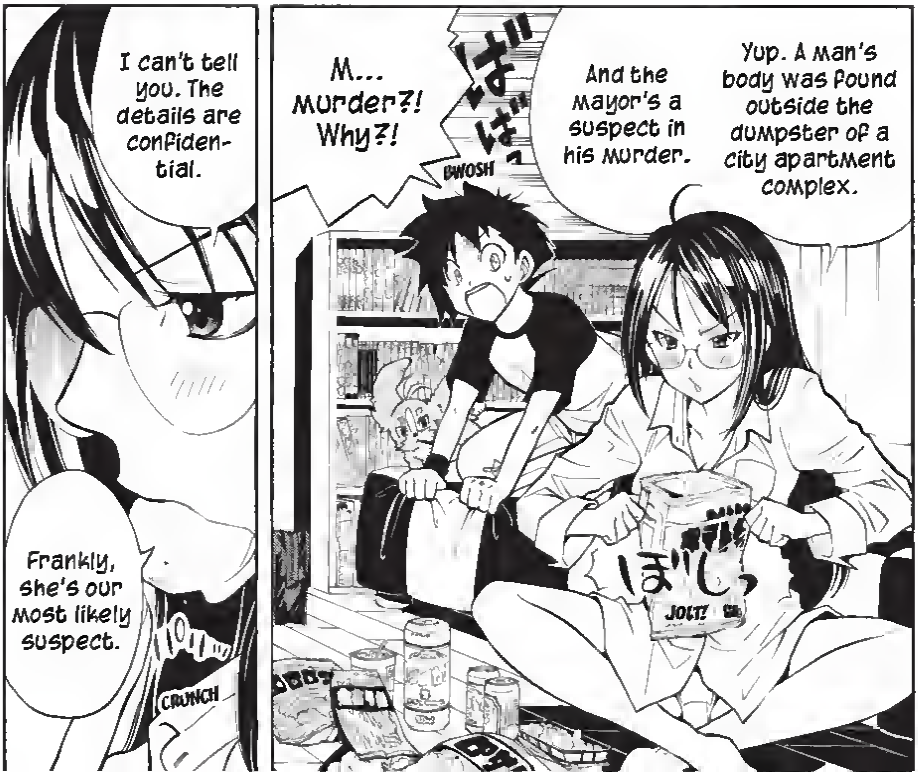
Long time no see, Mayor Takasugi. It's Yakita.
Remember me? Please email me at the following address.
yakita@xxxx.xx.xp
At first, he sent an email to the mayor's address listed on the city homepage...
...Yes.

Am I a suspect?
Was it... murder, detective?
We're afraid so.
Only now he was sending pictures we took when we were together.
After that, he sent them directly to my cell phone.
I'm going to be honest.
We found a few photos with rather questionable content.
CLUTTER
We found emails and other computer files indicating your relationship,
...When we investigated his home,
and proving that you had been in contact with each other.

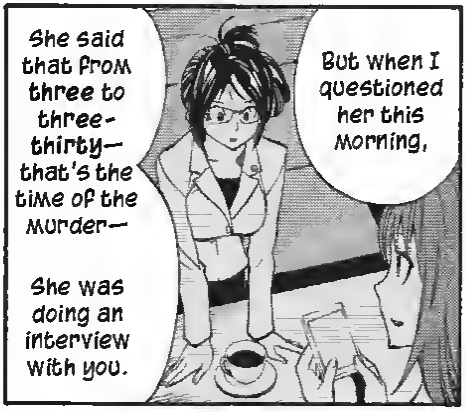
What are you going to do with them?!
If those go public, I... I...!
You have nothing to worry about there.
The police have a duty of confidentiality. We will never leak those pictures.
THUMP
スト…
Really?!
Oh, what a relief!
...You're very honest, Mayor Takasugi.
Of course.
GRIN
I believe honesty in situations like these
is what proves the quality of a mayor... no, of all politicians.
Where were you, and what were you doing
between three and three-thirty yesterday afternoon?
...Then answer me honestly.
Just a second...
...I was here, doing interviews.

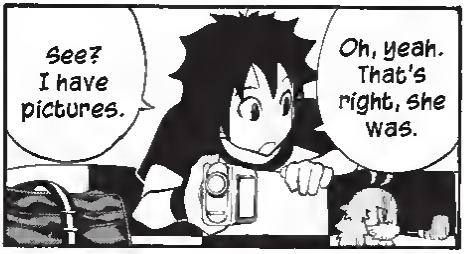
...
...May I ask who was interviewing you?
SMIRK
And then after that, I was still doing interviews until five o-clock.
From three to three forty-five.
And how long was that going on?
Interview with London Academy
School paper until 15:45
...was with the students from London Academy's school paper.
Yes, of course. The first interview...
That means...
What...?

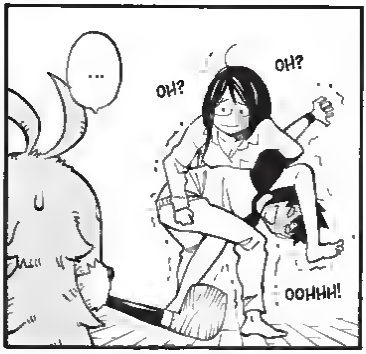
PERK
I'M the mayor's alibi witness?


I can't tell you. The details are confidential.
Frankly, she's our most likely suspect.
CRUNCH
M... Murder?! Why?!
ばば
WOSH
And the mayor's a suspect in his murder.
Yup. A man's body was found outside the dumpster of a city apartment complex.
ぽしっ
JOLT!

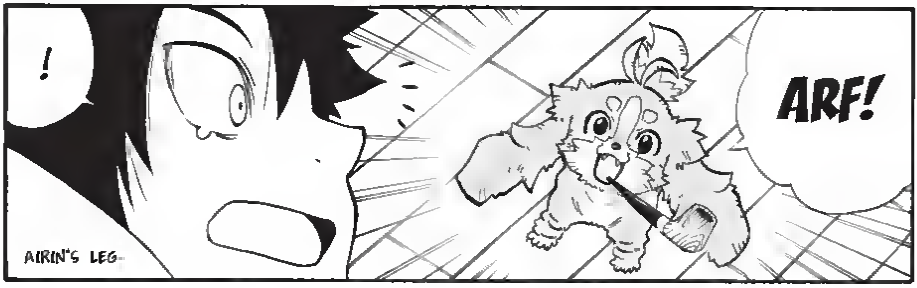
And in this one, you can even see the clock right there behind her.
HMMM...


She said that from three to three-thirty—that's the time of the murder—
She was doing an interview with you.
But when I questioned her this morning,

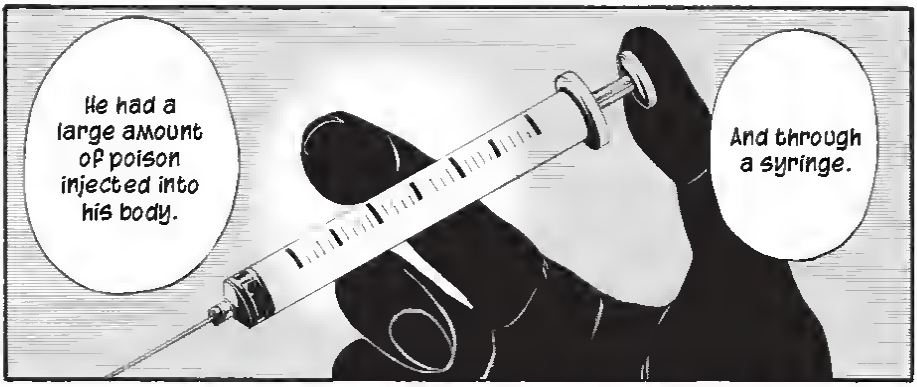

See? I have pictures.
Oh, yeah. That's right, she was.


...
OH?
OH?
OOHHH!

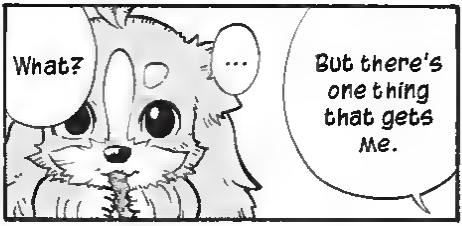
You just hate pretty girls, Sis.
Too bad she's not the murderer you thought she was.
You're right...so her alibi is air-tight, huh.


!
AIRIN'S LEG
ARF!

But you found the body so soon
because it was dumped in a trash heap, right?
Are you sure about the time of death?
We found him really early.
They were able to get a pretty accurate estimate.
Arp!
By the way... what was the cause of death?
That's a good point...
It's like the murderer was saying, "Please find the body now!"
What?!
Poison.


He had a large amount of poison injected into his body.
And through a syringe.

But Yakita, the victim,
was injected here, in the leg.


What?
...
But there's one thing that gets me.

↑ JERKY

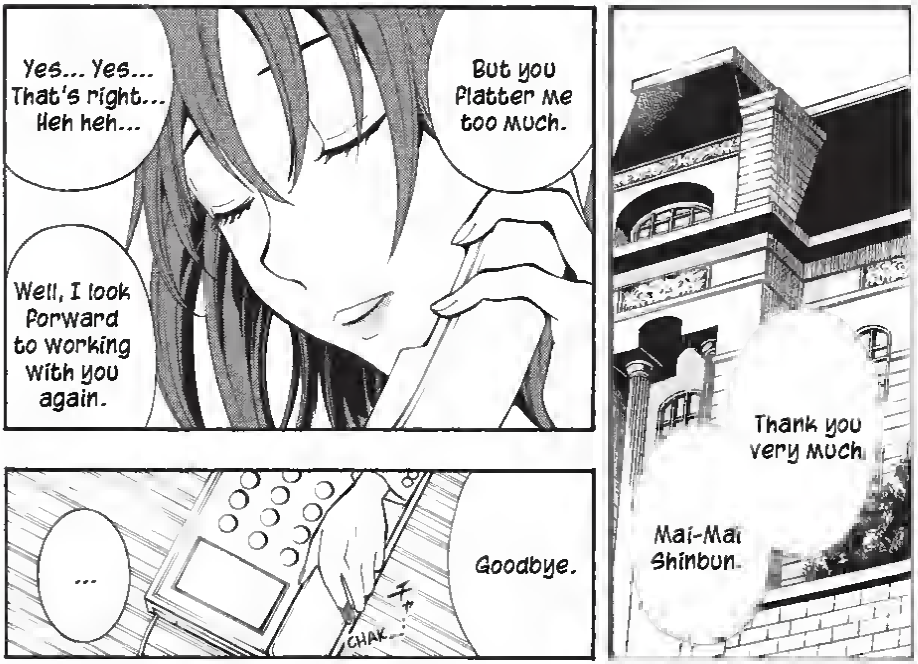
you would get him in the arm or the neck.
Normally, if you were going to inject poison into someone,

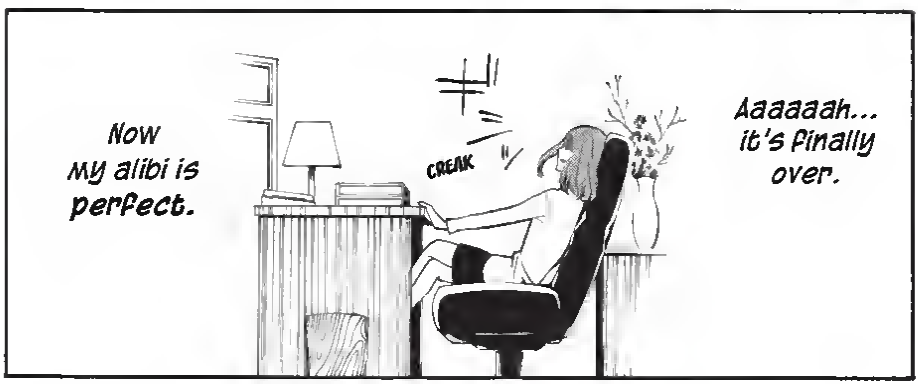
...To be honest,
Right, exactly.

Even if you suddenly decided to attack him, you wouldn't get him in the shin.
I see.
...

Call it detective's intuition...
...
MMM...
But there's something about that mayor.
Yakita being who he was,
anyone would have killed him.
...The bad feeling I had yesterday
May have been right on the mark.
What do you think about all this, Watson?
110 F!!
SHUT...
And more than anything, I'M her alibi.
THUD
Why does that matter?
I dunno... She seemed like such a nice lady. And she's pretty.
...
But you're right about there being a lot of weird things about her.

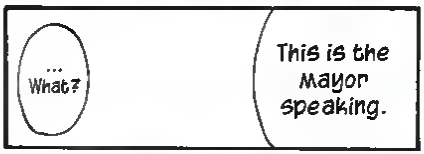
What do you want to do about it, Watson?
Quite so.
WHACK WHACK WHACK
Argh, this is really pissing me off!
And why is that?
Well, if she did do it,
That means she used us...in her murder.
I don't know, but...
...
I have to know the truth.

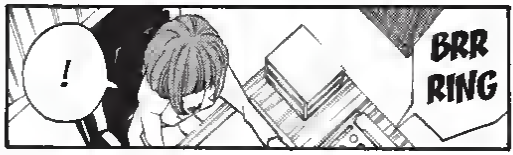

Yes... Yes... That's right... Heh heh...
But you flatter me too much.
Well, I look forward to working with you again.
...
CHAK...
Goodbye.
Thank you very much.
Mai-Mai Shinbun.


Now my alibi is perfect.
CREAK
Aaaaaah... it's finally over.

there's no way I could have committed a murder while I was taking interviews in my office.
Whatever black-hearted motive they may find,

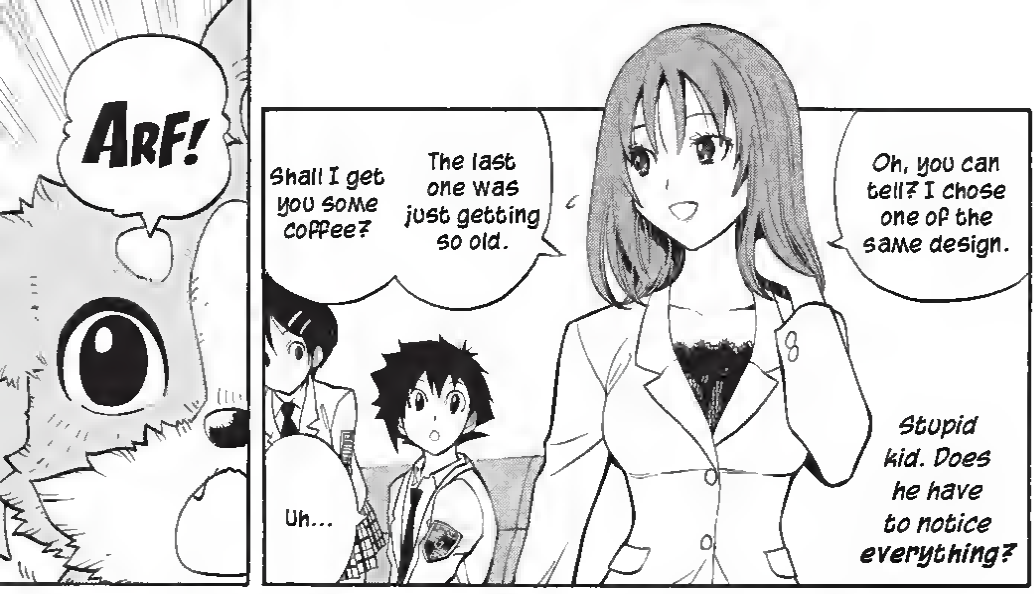
Like hell I'm going to let that bastard flea ruin my life.
Is this... the perfect crime?

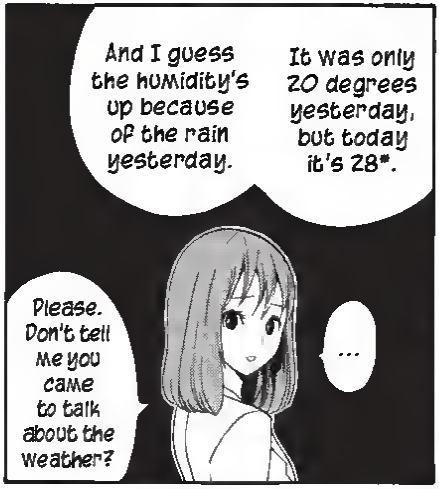

...What?
This is the Mayor speaking.


!
BRR RING

A visitor?

Yesterday, I left my house without checking the weather report.
I ended up having to buy an umbrella at the corner store. So today I was more careful.
Oh, you know. The forecast said it was going to rain.
Silly, why would you bring an umbrella?
Looks like you got a new sofa.
That's okay. It was a slow day today.
HAVE A SEAT
I'm sorry for the short notice, Ms. Mayor.
But what brings you back here?
ARF!
!
TWITCH
!


ARF!
Shall I get you some coffee?
The last one was just getting so old.
Oh, you can tell? I chose one of the same design.
Uh...
Stupid kid. Does he have to notice everything?


And I guess the humidity's up because of the rain yesterday.
It was only 20 degrees yesterday, but today it's 28*.
Please. Don't tell me you came to talk about the weather?
...

*about 68°F and 82°F.

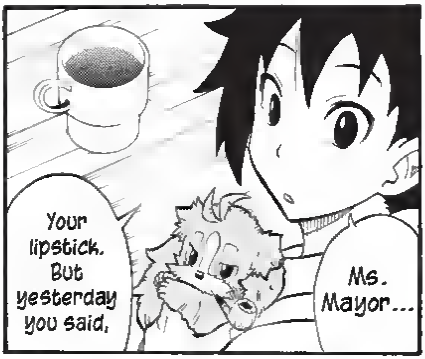
Oh, that's okay. Leave it on.
I want to dehumidify the room.
Oh! The air conditioner is on! Let me just turn that off for you!
So where would you like to begin?
It's a little chilly. Must be the rain.
This is...!
...!
GASP
And yesterday
it wasn't nearly this hot.
...
So why isn't the air conditioner on?
It's strange... This room is a lot more humid than it was yesterday.

So why did you have the air condition up so high
that you needed a blanket?

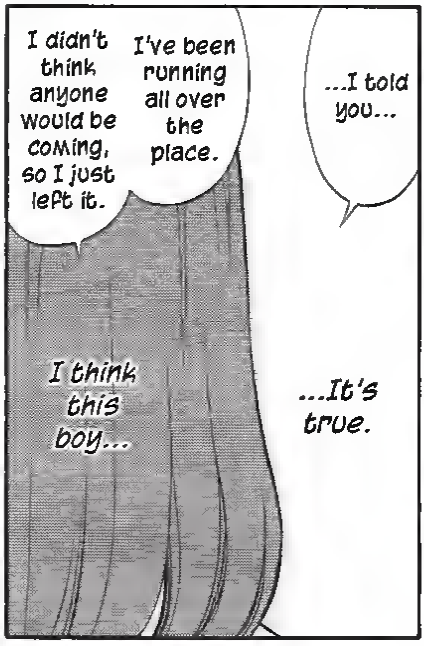
I only let him in to thank him for giving me an alibi, but I guess that was a mistake!
I've had an odd feeling about him since yesterday.
GSH
I'll turn it on right now.
I've been running around so much, I just forgot.

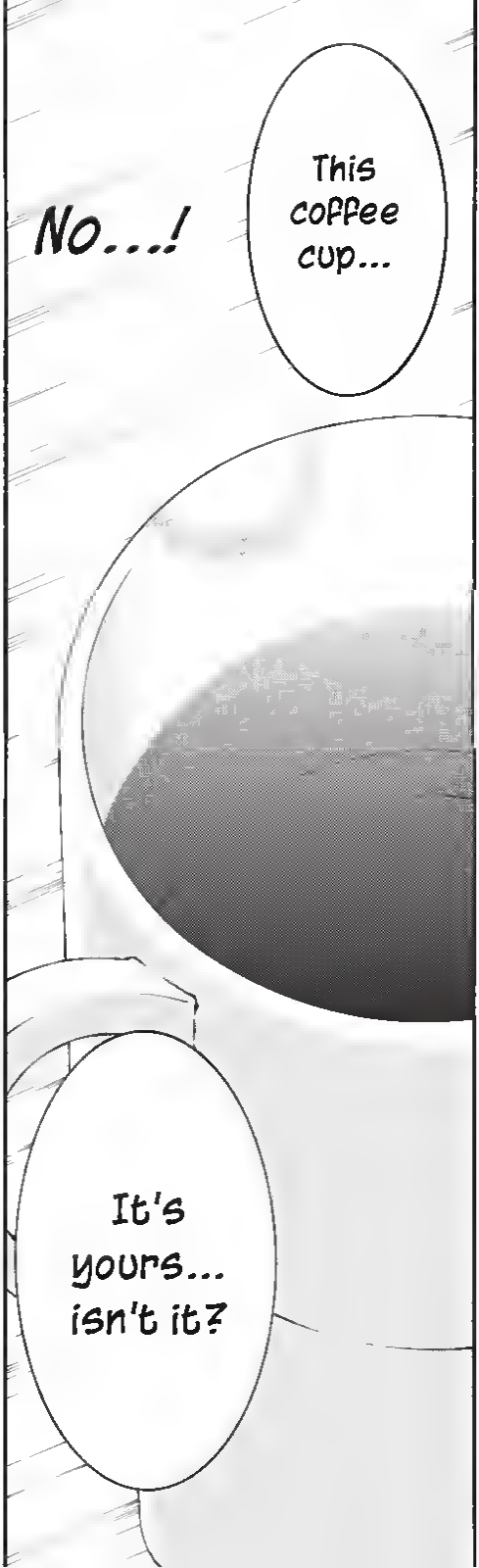
B-DMP...
What is the deal with this kid?
What...

Huh? But just a minute ago you said
it's been a slow day today.
Ah! Hey!
You can't do that, Sherdog!
SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH
ARF ARF!
I was busy until just before you got here.
BEEP
...I meant it was about to become a slow day.
...Huh?
!

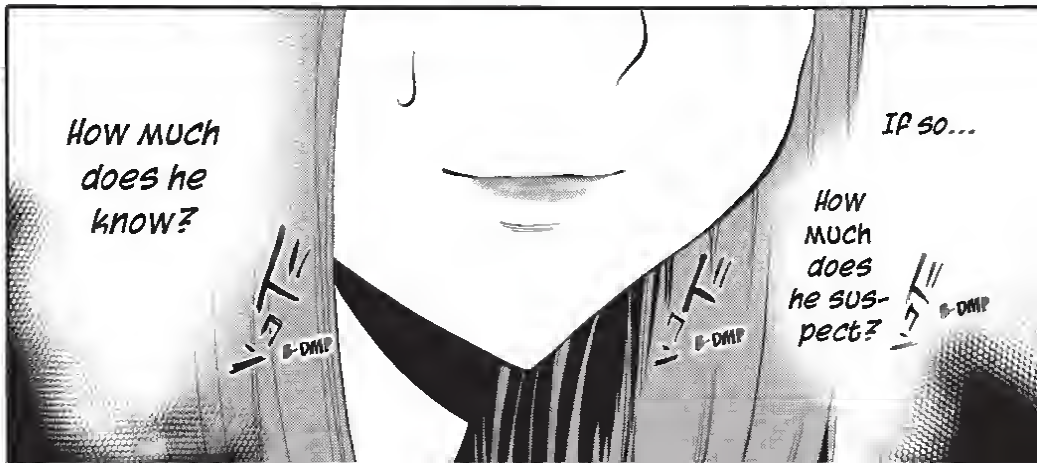

Your lipstick. But yesterday you said,
Ms. Mayor...

I'm one of those people. It bugs me.
I wiped it off.


I didn't think anyone would be coming, so I just left it.
I've been running all over the place.
...I told you...
I think this boy...
...It's true.


NO...!
This coffee cup...
It's yours... isn't it?

...Me.
Sus-
pects...


How much does he know?
B-DMP
B-DMP
If so...
How much does he sus-pect?
B-DMP